

OCT 25 2019

CHRISTY BLAKEMORE
CLERK CIRCUIT COURT, COLUMBIA, MO

STATE OF MISSOURI

19BA-CR04782

vs.

JOSEPH DUANE ELLEDGE
DOB: [REDACTED]
SSN: [REDACTED]

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

I, ALAN R MITCHELL II

knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law,
state that the facts contained herein are true.

1. I have probable cause to believe that on 10/25/2019, at 2607 EASTWOOD DR - 58, COLUMBIA, MO 65202, JOSEPH DUANE ELLEDGE W/M [REDACTED] committed one or more criminal offense(s): 568.060-002Y201238 ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF A CHILD UNDER SECTION 568.060.5(1)

F/M: F COUNTS: 1 CHARGE TYPE: S

2. The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On 10/18/2019 at approximately 1306 hours detectives were advised that the suspect, Joseph Elledge had abused the victim, [REDACTED] who is currently [REDACTED] [REDACTED], by striking her on the buttocks hard enough to cause severe bruising in February of 2019. [REDACTED] would have been [REDACTED] at the time of the abuse.

K.R., [REDACTED] of [REDACTED], stated in February of 2019 she received a call over a computer application called WeChat from [REDACTED] M.E., [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. K.R. stated M.E. told her that she had located bruising on the buttocks of [REDACTED]. K.R. stated M.E. told her she questioned Joseph about the bruising and he denied any knowledge of where the bruising came from. K.R. stated M.E. told her Joseph said it could have happened when he was giving [REDACTED] [REDACTED] a bath, but M.E. doubted this because they always give [REDACTED] a bath together. K.R. stated she told M.E. to confront Joseph when he got home and tell him that she was going to take [REDACTED] to the hospital. K.R. stated M.E. did this and later told her that Joseph admitted that he had struck [REDACTED] K.R. stated M.E. wanted to contact the police about the incident but Joseph promised he would never do it again so she gave him another chance. K.R. showed officers the picture of [REDACTED] sent to her by M.E. that showed bruising on the buttocks. K.R. allowed officers to take a screen shot of the picture of [REDACTED] bruise.

Officers examining M.E.'s Apple IPad located pictures of bruising on a child's buttocks that were sent via email on 02/18/2019 at 1144 hours. M.E. sent three different photographs of bruising via email. Other photographs of injuries on a child were located on the IPad but were in a thumbnail format that was too small for detail. The normal accompanying full size image was not present which is normally due to the photograph being erased. Joseph had access to the IPad for approximately one week prior to officers gaining control of it.

Officers examining M.E.'s laptop computer located two pictures with two accompanying videos of bruising on a child's buttocks. The photographs were located in a folder used for backing up photographs from an iPhone. The photographs were taken on 02/12/2019 at 1555 hours. One of the photographs appeared to be the same photo K.R. had on her phone that she stated was sent from M.E. to her.

On 10/25/2019 Joseph advised, post Miranda, that he did bruise [REDACTED] approximately 7 to 8 months prior. Joseph stated [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Joseph stated M.E. located the bruise on [REDACTED] buttocks when she was changing a diaper and asked him how it happened. Joseph stated he told her at first he did not know how it happened but then stated he may have done it when he held [REDACTED] by hold her too hard. Joseph stated M.E. was not home the night it occurred and [REDACTED] was crying and would not stop so, he may have pinched her and caused the bruising or just held her too hard. Joseph stated he was pinching [REDACTED] to distract her from crying. Joseph was shown the screen shot from K.R. and asked if the bruise in the picture was the same bruise he saw and he confirmed that he thought it was.

The bruise in the picture covers one side of the buttocks of [REDACTED] and is purple blue and yellow. The injury does not appear to be consistent with a pinch or tight holding but appears like a bruise that would come from some sort of strike.

Police identified this incident while investigating Joseph in relation to the suspicious disappearance of his wife M.E. Joseph did not tell anyone about M.E. being gone for over 24 hours and did not report her missing to the police until 10/10/2019 approximately a day and a half after he said she disappeared. During the time between when Joseph said M.E. went missing and the time he made the report he took a long drive through unfamiliar remote areas of Mid-Missouri.

3. For the issuance of a warrant in a misdemeamor case, complete the following
 - (a) I believe that the defendant will not appear in court in response to a criminal summons because:
Joseph is the subject of an investigation into the suspicious disappearance of his wife. At the time of serving a search warrant on Joseph's residence he was located attempting to leave town with his mother and child.
 - (b) I believe that the defendant poses
 - (1) a danger to a crime victim because
Joseph admitted to injuring [REDACTED] and is the subject of an investigation into the suspicious disappearance of his wife M.E.
 - (2) a danger to the community or to any other person because
n/a

ALAN R MITCHELL II
Date: 10/25/2019

Alan R. Mitchell

Signature
(re: CPD Case #2019-011282)